GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:185
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
AGRICULTURAL LAND UNDER CULTIVATION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of agricultural land in hectares under cultivation in the country, especially in Gujarat;

(b) the details of persons employed in these agricultural lands; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to boost the agriculture in the country particularly in Gujarat ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): As per the Land Use Statistics compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture, the total agricultural land under cultivation in Gujarat is about 10.4 million hectares as against 154.4 million hectares in the country.

(b): According to Census 2001, the total number of persons employed in agriculture in Gujarat was 109,64,339 persons out of which 58,02,681 were cultivators and 51,61,658 were agricultural labourers.

(c): Keeping in view the importance of Agriculture in the economy, the Union Budget 2005- 06 has provided for substantial increase in the budgetary outlay for agriculture and allied sectors in 2005-06 compared to 2004-05. Since the flow of credit is important in accelerating the pace of investment in agriculture, the disbursement of agricultural credit is proposed to be stepped up by 30% in 2005-06 over the disbursement of Rs. 1,15,243/- crores in 2004-05, which exceeded the disbursement of Rs. 86,981 crore made in 2003-04 by 32%. These measures aimed at boosting agricultural growth would also cover the State of Gujarat. Besides, in the State of Gujarat the scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme(Mini Mission −II of Technology Mission on Cotton), and the programme of cereals and SUBACS (Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System) are being implemented.